

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-03

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 233912

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TA : UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: UNESCO: VISIT TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY DIRECTOR

REF: A) PARIS 27142; B) TEL AVIV 6461

1. SUMMARY AND ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY TEL AVIV SHOULD CONVEY DEPARTMENT VIEWS THAT FOLLOW BELOW TO GOI AND ASK THAT IT RECONSIDER ITS POSITION REGARDING DATE ON WHICH IT WILL ALLOW DIRECTOR GENERAL'S TEAM TO ENTER OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO GATHER INFORMATION ON EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS THERE AND CONTACT UNESCO BEFORE SEPTEMBER 24 IN EFFORT TO REACH COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT ON TIMING. PERMREP IN PARIS SHOULD ADVISE DG OF OUR EFFORTS AND URGE HE NOT CLOSE DOOR ON MATTER ON SEPTEMBER 24.

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DEPARTMENT APPROACHING ISRAELIS HERE ON ISSUE. END

SUMMARY.

2. DEPT FULLY UNDERSTANDS PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES GOI WOULD FACE IN RECEIVING AT THIS TIME A TEAM INTENT ON CONDUCT GENUINELY MEANINGFUL INFO GATHERING EFFORT. NEVERTHELESS, DEPT BELIEVES THAT THE OVERRIDING REQUIREMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ISSUE AT THE COMING UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IS TO GIVE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL A BASIS

FOR ASKING THE CONFERENCE TO DELAY CONSIDERING THE ISSUE. SUCH BASIS NEED NOT BE A FULL REPORT WHICH DEMONSTRATES THAT ISRAEL IS SAFEGUARDING ARAB AND CULTURAL INTERESTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT COULD BE A PRELIMINARY REPORT THAT WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IS ACTING IN GOOD FAITH, AND WITH SOME SUCCESS, TO GATHER THE RELEVANT INFO WHICH WOULD BE PUT BEFORE THE CONFERENCE, OR SOME OTHER ORGAN OF UNESCO IN DUE COURSE.

3. REFTTEL A MAKES IT CLEAR THAT M'BOW FEELS HIS PRESTIGE IS ENGAGED IN THIS ISSUE, AND THAT HE FEELS THAT IF HE CANNOT GET HIS TEAM INTO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IMMEDIATELY, SO THAT HE CAN GET A PRELIMINARY REPORT BACK IN TIME TO PRESENT TO THE CONFERENCE, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTROL THE SITUATION. WE ALSO NOTE FROM PARA 7 REFTTEL A THAT ADG NAJMAN BELIEVES FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 MAY BE LATEST DAY ON WHICH ACTION WILL BE POSSIBLE.

4. DG HAS ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT FEEL THAT SENDING ONE OF HIS SENIOR STAFF OFFICIALS WILL BE SATISFACTORY. VISIT, IN HIS VIEW, MUST BE MADE BY INDIVIDUALS CURRENTLY NOT A PART OF THE ORGANIZATION IF THEIR FINDINGS ARE TO BE USEFUL IN GETTING THE ARABS TO MODERATE THEIR POSITION AT THE 19TH GC.

5. DEPT BELIEVES M'BOW IS SINCERELY TRYING TO REDUCE THE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL ON THIS ISSUE, AND SINCE HE IS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE ARABS, HIS VIEWS ON OPTIMUM TACTICS MUST BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. DEPT CONVINCED THAT GOI REFUSAL TO ADMIT DG'S TEAM AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE WOULD WEAKEN THE DG'S HAND ACROSS THE BOARD IN HIS CONSIDERABLE EFFORTS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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CORRECT THE ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS OF THE PREVIOUS GC AND TO MODERATE, TO GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, GC CONSIDERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ISSUE. WE REGARD THIS ISSUE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE IN OUR EFFORT TO INDUCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF UNESCO TO REVERSE ALL THE PAST DISCRIMINATORY ACTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL.

6. IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS WILL APPROACH THE .

ISRAELI EMBASSY HERE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR TEL AVIV: EMBASSY SHOULD CONVEY ABOVE VIEWS TO GOI AND REQUEST THAT THEY RECONSIDER MATTER WITH A VIEW TO ACCOMMODATING DG'S NEED TO GET HIS TEAM MOVING BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24. DEPARTMENT

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CONSIDERS IT UNFORTUNATE THAT IMPASSE IS DEVELOPING ON LARGELY TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS AFTER GOI AND UNESCO HAVE REACHED BASIC AGREEMENT ON VISIT OF A TEAM TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IF ISRAELIS BELIEVE SEPTEMBER 24 TOO CLOSE A TIME FRAME AT THIS POINT, THEY NEVERTHELESS COULD GO BACK TO UNESCO BEFORE SEPTEMBER 24 -- WHEN M'BOW REPORTEDLY WILL SEND HIS REPLY TO MOST RECENT ISRAELI LETTER ON ISSUE -- AND EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER DATE FOR A TEAM VISIT IN TIME FOR MAXIMUM FAVORABLE IMPACT ON GENERAL CONFERENCE. FOR EXAMPLE, A TEAM VISIT BEGINNING OCTOBER 5 WOULD ALLOW TWO WEEKS FOR PREPARATION OF AT LEAST A PRELIMINARY REPORT TO GENERAL CONFERENCE.

8. FOR PARIS: PERMREP MAY CONVEY GIST OF ABOVE TO ISRAEL PERM REP YAPOU. PERMREP SHOULD ALSO MEET WITH M'BOW AND ADVISE HIM OF OUR EFFORTS WITH ISRAELIS AND URGE DG TO KEEP DOOR OPEN, AT LEAST BEYOND SEPTEMBER 24, TO WORKING OUT COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE.

ROBINSON

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